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recent civil service laws in giving the appointing officer absolute power to remove any appointee, though requiring him to give written reasons for removal. One of the bills is somewhat novel, though none the less important in view of the agitation which is going on here and abroad, for it provides for woman suffrage at all municipal elections on the same terms as men. It is quite probable that such a bill would be adopted if submitted to the voters of the city, and it would afford an excellent opportunity to judge as to the merits of woman suffrage. Since all progress is the result of experiments, it is to be regretted that this bill, as well as the other bills, failed to pass the legislature.

HORACE E. FLACK.

Municipal Charter Revision—Colorado Springs. Colorado Springs has one of the most recent charters, the present charter having been framed by the charter convention, elected January 19, 1909, and ratified by the people May 11. Several innovations have been introduced, but in general it may be said that the Colorado Springs charter is quite similar to that of Berkeley. In fact, it would seem that the charter convention had at hand the results of the labors of the board of freeholders of Berkeley. The fact that many of the cities are following with interest the experiments and results of other municipal governments is one of the most hopeful signs in regard to the improvement of municipal conditions. The outlook for the future seems very hopeful indeed, for there is now being conducted a series of experiments in municipal government which is bound to result in good. Since Galveston, in 1901, embarked upon the commission form of government, a number of cities and towns have adopted plans modeled more or less after it. In fact, nearly all the more recent charters have embodied some feature or features of the commission form. Colorado Springs is one of the latest adherents to this idea. There was evidently little objection to the change, for the vote was 3000 to 200 in favor of it.

According to the charter convention, the charter provides that the legislative, executive and judicial powers of the city shall extend to all matters of local and municipal government, and preserves every valuable feature of the laws of the state, only introducing such new methods of machinery as were deemed advisable and necessary in the assumption of home rule. Colorado, like California, confers upon her municipalities the very important power of framing and adopting their own charters. The powers of the city are vested in the elective officers

of the city, the mayor and four councilmen, except as they are reserved to the people by the initiative and referendum features of the charter. The mayor and councilmen are elected at large for a term of four years, two of the councilmen being elected every two years. The executive and administrative powers are distributed among these five departments: department of water and water works, department of finances, department of public safety, department of public works and property, department of public health and sanitation.

The mayor is the commissioner of water and water works, the council designating by majority vote one of their numbers to be commissioner of each of the other departments. The mayor is the chief executive officer of the city and, upon recommendation of the commissioner of the appropriate department, appoints the heads of such department and all the employees in the service of the city. He is also allowed to suspend or remove any officer or employee when, in his judgment, the public interest demands. In case of removal, if the officer or employee so removed requests, the mayor shall file with the clerk a written statement of the reasons for removal. The council, by affirmative vote of four members, may also remove any officer or employee. The mayor also prepares the annual budget, and the council may reduce or omit any item, but cannot increase any item. The mayor is given more power than found in most charters.

The charter provides that the failure of any officer or employee to pay any indebtedness contracted while in the service of the city shall be deemed sufficient ground for removal. The mayor is *ex officio* member of each board or commission created or authorized by the charter or by any ordinance. He is also given the power to veto any or every item contained in ordinances making appropriations, but such veto shall only extend to the items vetoed, and those which he approves shall become effective. No doubt, this provision is expected to expedite business and prevent log-rolling in appropriation ordinances. His veto can be overcome only by the votes of four members of the council, which means that every member of the council besides himself must vote to pass the ordinance over his veto. It is also provided that no officer or employee, other than firemen or policemen on duty, shall directly or indirectly accept any frank, free ticket or other service from any public utility corporation.

The council is required to provide a system of uniform accounting. If the council fail to make the tax levy in any year, the rate last fixed shall be the rate for the ensuing fiscal year. The debt limit of the city

is fixed at 3 per cent, but indebtedness for water, light or public utilities or works from which a revenue is derived, is not to be included in determining the debt limit.

The rights of the city are carefully guarded in the matter of public franchises and utilities. The Charter retains in the people the right to control public utilities, and requires that provision shall be made in every franchise hereafter granted permitting the city to purchase at a physical valuation such utility whenever the people deem it best so to do and vote in favor thereof. It is also expressly provided that all disputes arising on account of any ambiguity shall be construed in favor of the city. No franchise can be granted for a longer period than twenty-five years nor can one be renewed before one year prior to its expiration. Furthermore, it is provided that no franchise shall be exclusive and that no public utility shall issue securities in excess of an amount fixed by the council or without its consent.

In addition to the above safeguards, the council is practically constituted a public utilities commission, for it gives power to regulate the rates, fares and charges of all public utility corporations, including the right to require uniform, convenient and adequate service to the public and reasonable extensions of such service. Of course, the people can secure such regulation through the initiative and referendum in case the council fails to do so. A unique, but no doubt valuable feature, is that requiring all public utility corporations to submit not later than sixty days after the first day of January, an annual report showing in detail the amount of authorized capital stock and bonded indebtedness and the amount of each issued and outstanding, an itemized statement of receipts and expenditures, the amount paid in dividends and as interest, the names and the salary paid to each officer and the amount paid as wages, a full description of the property and franchises and the book value of each franchise.

A complete, non-partisan system for the election of municipal officers has been provided, the framers evidently being of the opinion that the party label was not necessary to secure efficient government. All nominations are to be made by petition, but the person so nominated must file his acceptance within five days from the filing of the petition of nomination. In his acceptance he must make affidavit to the fact that he has not become a candidate as the nominee or representative of or because of any promised support from any political party or committee. There shall be no political or other designation on the ballot to indicate the source of candidacy or support of any candidate.

A similar provision to that in the Berkeley charter in reference to a second election in case no one receives a majority in the first is to be found in this charter. There is also included a very strict provision in regard to corrupt practices.

The initiative, referendum and recall provisions are almost identical with those of the Berkeley charter and seem to mark an advance in the way of direct legislation. These provisions, together with that creating a civil service commission, no doubt account for the almost unanimous vote which the charter received. Municipal administration should be rendered more prompt and more effective under the new charter, for a concentration of power tends to expedite business. Concentration of power also secures the location of responsibility, and this is regarded by students in general as one of the essential features of any efficient form of government.

HORACE E. FLACK.

Municipal Councils. Members of the city council are elected in Indianapolis on a general ticket according to a law enacted by the last legislature. Minority representation is also provided. The law applies to all cities having a population of one hundred thousand or more. The number of councilmen is fixed at nine. The city is divided into six councilmanic districts and each party is permitted to nominate not more than one candidate for each district. Each elector is entitled to vote for nine candidates at the general election. Thus, if there are candidates of only two political parties in the field there would be twelve candidates, nine of whom would be elected.

The first nomination of candidates for the council under this plan took place August 5 in the direct primary and the results have been pronounced good. In the republican primary the six candidates selected were all endorsed by the civic and anti-saloon leagues and two of the six democratic candidates were so endorsed. The multiplicity of candidates in the democratic party by dividing the strength of the better elements caused the defeat of some worthy candidates.

JOHN A. LAPP.

Municipal Government—Proposed Charter—Brockton, Mass. The report of the committee appointed by the Economic Club of Brockton, Mass., "to consider the principles and methods of economical government for a city of 50,000 inhabitants," which has appeared, contains a draft of a proposed charter apparently as an attempt to engraft modern